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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/923,232	08/03/2001	Rajko Milovanovic	TI-32647	9094

23494 7590 03/31/2006

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EXAMINER

CHANG, SHIRLEY

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2623

DATE MAILED: 03/31/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Advisory Action
Before the Filing of an Appeal Brief**

Application No.

09/923,232

Applicant(s)

MILOVANOVIC ET AL.

Examiner

Shirley Chang

Art Unit

2623

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 10 March 2006 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE.

1. ☒ The reply was filed after a final rejection, but prior to or on the same day as filing a Notice of Appeal. To avoid abandonment of this application, applicant must timely file one of the following replies: (1) an amendment, affidavit, or other evidence, which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee) in compliance with 37 CFR 41.31; or (3) a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114. The reply must be filed within one of the following time periods:

- a) ☐ The period for reply expires _____ months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
b) ☒ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.

Examiner Note: If box 1 is checked, check either box (a) or (b). ONLY CHECK BOX (b) WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

NOTICE OF APPEAL

2. ☐ The Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. A brief in compliance with 37 CFR 41.37 must be filed within two months of the date of filing the Notice of Appeal (37 CFR 41.37(a)), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 41.37(e)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal. Since a Notice of Appeal has been filed, any reply must be filed within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 41.37(a).

AMENDMENTS

3. ☐ The proposed amendment(s) filed after a final rejection, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because
(a) ☐ They raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
(b) ☐ They raise the issue of new matter (see NOTE below);
(c) ☐ They are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
(d) ☐ They present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____. (See 37 CFR 1.116 and 41.33(a)).


4. ☐ The amendments are not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121. See attached Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (PTOL-324).
5. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
6. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
7. ☐ For purposes of appeal, the proposed amendment(s): a) ☐ will not be entered, or b) ☐ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.
The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:
Claim(s) allowed: _____.
Claim(s) objected to: _____.
Claim(s) rejected: _____.
Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

AFFIDAVIT OR OTHER EVIDENCE

8. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after a final action, but before or on the date of filing a Notice of Appeal will not be entered because applicant failed to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why the affidavit or other evidence is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 1.116(e).
9. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after the date of filing a Notice of Appeal, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because the affidavit or other evidence failed to overcome all rejections under appeal and/or appellant fails to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why it is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 41.33(d)(1).
10. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence is entered. An explanation of the status of the claims after entry is below or attached.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION/OTHER

11. ☒ The request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because:
See Continuation Sheet.
12. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s). (PTO/SB/08 or PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____
13. ☐ Other: _____.


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Continuation of 11. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: : a. Applicant argues on page 5, sixth paragraph that Merjanian does not specifically teach 'acquiring data related to a user without active user input or participation.'

Merjanian effectively discloses a 'acquiring data related to a user without active user input or participation.' Although a digit is placed on the platen through a transparent step (col. 11, lines 18-46; col. 8, lines 8-22), the process is indeed 'without active user input or participation,' in the same way as the applicant's system, wherein the "user activates a control key that the user would activate to operate the remote control device." In other words, a digit is placed on the platen, but meets the claimed limitation in the same sense as the applicant's system.

b. Applicants argues on page 6, last paragraph that Merjanian does not specifically teach 'a fingerprint sensor embedded in one of the control keys.'

Merjanian effectively discloses 'a fingerprint sensor embedded in one of the control keys.' The word 'key' is defined as "a means of gaining or preventing entrance, possession, or control." Therefore, element 30 of Merjanian is by definition a key, since it is a means of gaining or preventing entrance, possession, or control, to restore operator preferences, access to a restricted channel, or programming that is to appear at a later time such as a pay-per-view movie that starts at the beginning of the next hour, by an icon or text on the screen' (col. 11, lines 17-46; col. 8, lines 8-23; col. 7, lines 44-67). Furthermore, element 30 is a 'control key' since it is a 'key' that 'controls' 'means of gaining or preventing entrance, possession, or control' as aforementioned. Therefore, since element 30 is a fingerprint sensor embedded in one of the control keys, Merjanian does indeed disclose the limitation of the argued claims.

c. Applicants argues on page 7, last paragraph that Merjanian does not specifically teach 'some control keys disposed in a thumb actuated cross configuration' and 'the fingerprint sensor is integrated within a middle portion of the thumb operated cross configuration.'

Merjanian effectively discloses 'some control keys disposed in a thumb actuated cross configuration' and 'the fingerprint sensor is integrated within a middle portion of the thumb operated cross configuration.' There exist multiple 'thumb operated cross configurations.' Although control keys 212H, 211I, 212J, and 212K constitute one example of a 'cross configuration,' Merjanian discloses control keys 30, 212E, 212J, and 212H, which also constitute as a 'cross configuration' (fig. 7; col. 8, lines 8-22; col. 12, lines 38-45). Furthermore, the word 'within' is defined as 'in or into the interior.' Therefore, the fingerprint sensor is indeed integrated within a middle portion of the thumb operated cross configuration,' since control key 30 is within the cross configuration as defined by control keys 30, 212E, 212J, and 212H..